



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, March 19, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

 Due to a change in reporting by the Lafayette Police Department, we were unable to get complete information before press time.

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Lafayette teachers demand fair pay

By Pippa Fisher



Springhill Elementary School teachers have been wearing black to show solidarity to their union and draw attention to their demands for fair pay. Photo provided

It was clear at a recent Lafayette School District board meeting that teachers are not prepared to wait silently while the union and district continue to negotiate teacher contracts.

The meeting room was packed

with teachers, parents and a few students at the Feb. 21 meeting. Using the public comments time slot of the school board meeting, the board heard from multiple teachers about how they can no longer afford to live in the area in which they work.

While all the teachers agreed they were not in it for the money, the educators pointed to increased duties and responsibilities, with more and more expected of them such as integrating technologies, professional developments, student council, and meetings. With aids' hours cut by the district, many of those duties now additionally fall on teachers, they said.

A parent spoke, showing a chart to illustrate how far behind the cost of living teachers say their salaries have fallen. Springhill Elementary fifth-grade teacher Christina Churchill says that from 2010 to 2016 Lafayette teacher salaries averaged five percent lower than the consumer price index and dropped an additional five percent in 2017.

The teachers took issue with information posted by the district which cites raises given between 2012 and

2016, saying the district was neglecting to mention 2007-2010 when they had no salary increase apart from a one-time annual bonus of one percent.

Churchill explains, "When the economy took a dive, the district asked us to take furlough days and raise our health insurance co-pay with the promise that we would be made whole when the economy was better. They have yet to 'catch us up' as promised."

Churchill said that 68 percent of teachers take second jobs to make ends meet.

Following the speakers, LAFSD School Board President Teresa Gerringer acknowledged the large number of people who had turned up and said that while the board couldn't comment or respond at that time, "We are listening. We do hear you." ... continued on page A12

Zoning of Deer Hill to be decided in referendum on June ballot

By Pippa Fisher



Illustrative site plan for the proposed development "Homes at Deer Hill"

Lafayette will place a referendum on the ballot in June, effectively giving voters a say in the fate of the land on Deer Hill.

The State Appeals Court ruled on Feb. 21 in favor of the preservationist group known as Save Lafayette, overturning a previous ruling. Save Lafayette had brought the lawsuit to force the referendum over land use zoning in order to block the city's approval of a 44-home development, which they deemed too dense.

The city can now either appeal the decision at the state supreme court or place a referendum on the ballot to accept or repeal ordinance 641, adopted by the city in 2015

which changed the zoning on this parcel from administrative professional office to low density single family residential zoning, in order to make it consistent with the general plan.

Conversely, the city had faced a lawsuit over the same project from the San Francisco Bay Area Renters Federation who claimed the development was not dense enough. The city won that case in 2017.

In a meeting that went to midnight Feb. 26, city council members debated whether to place the referendum on the November ballot or whether to move forward with a ballot at a special election in June.

City Attorney Mala Subramanian explained that if voters chose to allow ordinance 641 to become effective, the developer would be able to move forward. Should the public

choose to repeal the ordinance, the land use would keep the status quo of administrative/office zoning, theoretically allowing the developer to reactivate the application for the 315-unit apartment complex.

Save Lafayette spokesperson Michael Griffiths urged the council to slow down, saying that the group wants to work with the city for a "win, win, win." He said he believes they can work on an attractive solution but pointed out that "a positive outcome for all parties ... takes time" and urged the council to wait until November to put the referendum on the ballot.

The project manager for the Homes at Deer Hill Dave Baker also spoke. He told the council he would like to see an election as soon as possible.

Attorney for Save Lafayette Gary Garfinkle said the case is complicated enough as it is. "If you rush to put this on the June ballot you're inviting substantial complications," he warned.

Two members of the public spoke in favor of moving ahead in June, saying they value the amenities that are part and parcel of the proposed development - a dog park, tot-lot, ball-field and parking.

In the end the decision to put this to the voters in June was 4 to 1 in favor with Council Member Ivor Samson voting against it.

Conversation around ballot language continued at a special meeting March 2, to be continued to a further meeting March 7, in order to allow the public more time to evaluate the issues.

March 8 named Erling Horn Day



Photo Pippa Fisher

Mayor Don Tatzin recognized Erling Horn for his 40 years of service to Lafayette at the Feb. 26 city council meeting by proclaiming March 8, Horn's 80th birthday, to be "Erling Horn Day in Lafayette." Horn has been involved with the city in many capacities

over the years including serving eight years on the city council with two terms as mayor, on the parking commission, the planning commission, and many advisory boards. He continues to be active and is in his fifth year on the public art committee. - P. Fisher

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